

Thy Kingdom Come!
**REGNUM CHRISTI
MOVEMENT**

—
TERRITORIAL DIRECTOR

Prot. NA-RC 0007-2016

March 7, 2016

To all the Regnum Christi members of the North American Territory

Dear Regnum Christi Members,

Ninety-four Regnum Christi members chosen by their localities gathered in Chicago last week for a territorial convention to review the draft Regnum Christi Statutes and to elect delegates to an international convention in Rome for the same purpose at the end of May.

I write on behalf of these delegates in order to thank you for accompanying us with your prayer, share with you some of the experience of the week, and convey the basic results of the convention.

Our work was to review the current Regnum Christi statutes, taking into account the feedback from similar local sessions all over the North American Territory, while listening for resonances and commonalities as signs of the Holy Spirit. Since our ideas must be joined with feedback from other territories, our aim wasn't to actually re-write the statutes, but to surface issues that should be sent to Rome for further deliberation.

To accomplish this, we broke into 12 working groups, each with eight lay members, one Legionary and one consecrated man or woman. We held discussions much like those that took place at the local level, gathering the suggestions of each group.

At the close of these deliberations, we met in plenary session to vote each statute and its proposed changes up or down. The votes were tallied by electronic device, and an official record of the results will be sent to Rome for use at the international convention.

We could not have asked for a better atmosphere for such a meeting. We met on the gorgeous campus of Mundelein Seminary, a setting conducive to quiet reflection and discernment. We began each day with a votive mass and ended our work each evening with a Eucharistic Hour, thus punctuating our time together with prayer in common and the sincere effort to seek and do the Lord's will.

What was the mood like? Although we came from all over the United States, Canada and the Philippines, there was an immediate camaraderie among us that can only be understood as a gift of the Holy Spirit and the joy of hearts united as family in communion with each other.

The meetings were intense, as there was a great deal of material to cover in a relatively short amount of time. Nevertheless, ample attention was paid to each and every statute. I would like to give some highlights of the discussions here.

It was agreed that the call to Regnum Christi is a high calling that implies great dedication. Yet the individual strives to meet that calling according to the law of graduality, with graduality understood as an honest path rather than a lack of commitment or a failure to embrace our mutual responsibilities in communion with each other and the other branches.

Formation and growth in holiness move to fullness in an atmosphere of accompaniment. Doing this well, we are able to enter the primary field of our apostolic action, forming apostles, thus equipping others to reveal the cause of their joy to all people they meet. Whatever difficulties a person may face, we are certain that a profound encounter with Christ is that moment and experience that will enable them to rise to the challenge. As such, our spirit, formation, communion and apostolate are one in the charism.

The delegates are aware how much you desired that they present to Rome concerns regarding the distinction between the 1st and 2nd degrees. The emotions poured out over this were nothing less than life-defining experiences. The certainty that our movement possesses individuals with extraordinary talents throughout our membership is further enhanced by individuals who have experienced a particular, unique, distinct call to which they have affirmatively responded and have received graces enabling them to further fulfill the needs of the movement. This may be difficult to quantify or describe, but the delegates all seemed to acknowledge that this 'call within the call' exists and that it will, with further discernment, find its place and proper description.

A particular moment of grace came during a plenary session on Wednesday evening, when members shared their experiences both positive and negative of the second degree. The first degree members were able to hear from second degree members their intense experience of a call from God – but also a public apology for times when second degree members failed to carry out their mission with tact and grace. We understand this moment as a gift of healing in the Year of Mercy.

Chapter Seven, on the government and place of the members of the first and second degree in the canonical structure of Regnum Christi, proved to be a difficult chapter on which to deliberate. Fortunately, Fr. Sylvester Heereman, who heads the general commission for the revision of the statutes, was present to guide us in our understanding and discernment. In the end, the vast majority of delegates are seeing

themselves belonging to Regnum Christi as associates, not as an independent association but rather each individual associating into the whole. Of course, this is only the result of the North American and Asian delegates' discernment. The ultimate decision will be made by the Holy See based on the proposal put forth by the general director of Regnum Christi, having heard all nine territories' results.

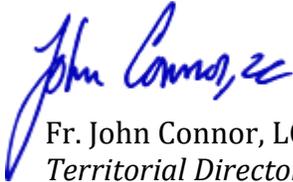
In addition to producing a series of recommendations for improvements or changes to the statutes, the members elected from among those gathered ten delegates to the international convention at the end of May. Their names are:

1. Rebecca Teti (Washington DC)
2. Kerrie Rivard (Atlanta)
3. Mike Williams (Atlanta)
4. Donna Garrett (Nebraska)
5. Brian Williams (San Francisco)
6. Kai Leal (Philippines)
7. Stephen Grundman (Washington DC)
8. Mary Williams (Detroit)
9. Brenner LeCompte (Greater NYC area)
10. Angela Christianson (Calgary, Canada)

I cannot conclude these reflections without extending profound thanks to all of you who have participated in the review of the statutes on the local level and have provided so much input for the discussions at the territorial convention. I also extend my gratitude to the Legionaries and consecrated members who have been accompanying the first and second degree members, encouraging their progress, illuminating misunderstandings, and providing a holy presence among their proceedings.

It is with profound love that I send you this greeting, on behalf of all the participants of the territorial convention, full of hope that the renewal of Regnum Christi is moving according to God's plan – not simply renewing but growing into something that will fulfill a mission greater than we all imagine or anticipate.

Yours in Christ & the Movement,



Fr. John Connor, LC
Territorial Director
North American Territory

Cc. Fr. Eduardo Robles Gil, General Director
Legionaries and Consecrated Members of the North American Territory